

14th August 2018

**Current Pasture Performance PastureBase Ireland:** [www.pbi.ie](http://www.pbi.ie) Micheal O'Leary

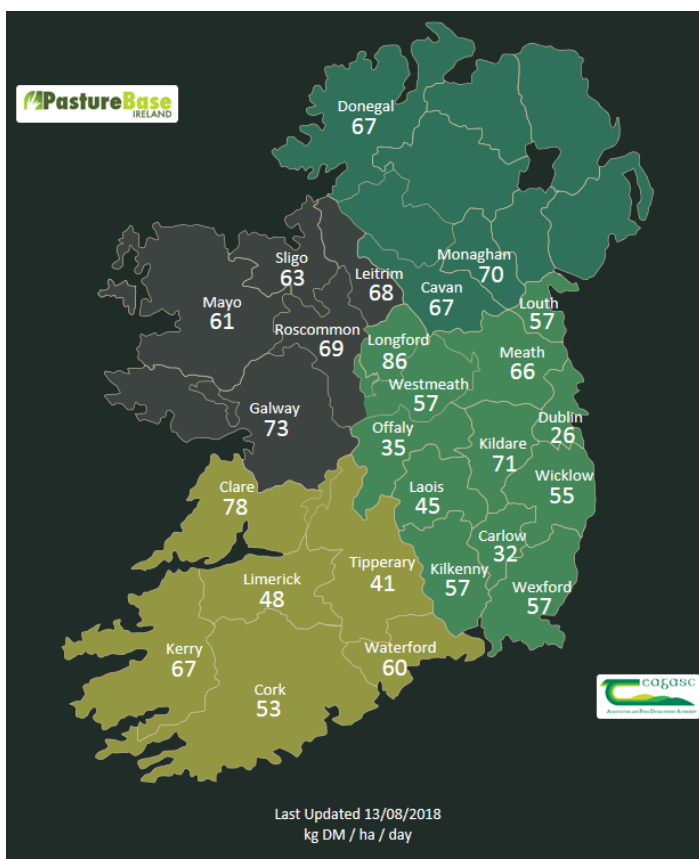


	Farm Cover (kg DM/ha)	Cover/LU (kg DM/LU)	Stocking Rate (LU/ha)	Growth (kg DM/ha)	Demand (kg DM/ha)
<b>Average</b>	703	217	3.25	55	39

- Average feed allocation per cow: 11.7 kg DM grass, 4 kg concentrates, 1.1 kg DM silage
- Growth rates are continuing to increase as soil moisture deficits gradually reduce around the country
- An autumn feed budget is a useful tool to help build/manage grass. Create an autumn feed budget on PBI and monitor growth rates to reach the autumn targets

**Dry Matter Content:**

Location	Moorepark	Grange
Sampling Date	14/08/18	14/08/18
Time of Day	13.00	10:45
Weather	Cloudy	Damp
Rotation No	6	5
Cover:	1074 Kg DM/ha	1250 Kg DM/ha
DM%:	18.2%	20.7%



**August Grazing Message:**

- The target rotation length for August is 25-30 days to build grass for the autumn. Supplementation will have to continue to build grass on farms (AFC: 850-900 kg DM/ha by August 31st)
- Taking our national PastureBase figures:

<b>Average Farm Cover: 703 kgDM/ha Growth: 55KgDM/ha Demand: 39kgDM/ha</b>
<b>55 (Growth) - 39 (Demand) = 16kgDM/ha surplus/growth/day</b>
<b>AFC 703 + (16 surplus X 15 days)= AFC:943kgDM/ha Sept 1st</b>

- Demand is in your control (livestock numbers and supplementation levels), however growth rate will have to be monitored
- If farm cover is below target at any stage, take quick action to bring it back on course (remove surplus stock or introduce a higher level of supplementation)



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### Fertiliser:

The chemical fertiliser and slurry spreading deadlines have been extended to maximise grass growth this autumn and to conserve additional fodder for the winter. The priority on all farms should be to maximise grass grown and utilised this autumn, in the form of grazing and silage making.

Fertiliser Type	New Deadline
Chemical Fertiliser	End of September
Slurry	End of October

### Fertiliser Strategy:

- Apply 25-30 units of N per acre on the grazing platform
- Nitrogen will be the key driver of grass growth over the coming weeks as soil moisture increases. Every effort should be made to apply nitrogen (N) where required sooner rather than later.
- Make sure to empty slatted tanks and spread all slurry now if not already spread. Use a low emission slurry spreading method if possible
- Use a compound fertiliser if you have P allowances remaining. There is no limit on Potash (K) rates. K can be spread 365 days of the year (no deadline)
- Lime should be spread on acidic soils (soil pH <6.2)

### August Grazing Targets:

Date	Cover/Cow (Kg DM)	Average Farm Cover (Kg DM/Ha)	Rotation Length
<b>STOCKING RATE OF 2.5 LU/Ha</b>			
Mid - August	200	500	25 Days
August 31st	300	750	30 Days
<b>STOCKING RATE OF 3.0 LU/Ha</b>			
Mid - August	250	750	25 Days
August 31st	330	990	30 Days
<b>STOCKING RATE OF 3.5 LU/Ha</b>			
Mid - August	220	770	25 Days
August 31st	280	980	30 Days

**Reducing Demand for Autumn and Winter:** Any cows that are showing signs of heat (repeating), the likelihood is that they are not in calf. If there is a feed deficit on farms, these cows should be culled to reduce demand for autumn grass and for winter feed. Farmers should scan early to identify empty cows and cull these cows where feed is scarce. Underperforming cows should also be culled to ease pressure on silage reserves.

**Fodder Budget Calculator:** Carry out a fodder budget to see if you have enough fodder, or to calculate your feed deficit. We can then make informed decisions on how to fill the feed gap. Use the following link to carry out an online fodder budget: <http://interactive.teagasc.ie/Open/FeedChecker>

**Grassland Farmer of the Year:** Make sure to send in your application forms! The deadline is this Friday 17th August. Good luck!